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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

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IT has been the common practice ever ſince I can remember, for people to recommend the particular wares they deal in, by ſetting forth that they are more eſſentially neceſſary at the preſent time, than they were ever known to be in times paſt. The doctor, to recommend his ELIXIR *for the nerves*, addreſſes you with, " Never were NERVOUS DECAYS &c. ſo frequent " as at preſent." The man of learning prefaces his diſcourſe upon occult qualities with, " Never was there " ſo total a decay of literature as at preſent;" and the divine introduces his volume of ſermons with, " Never " did ſin and folly abound ſo as at preſent."

BUT

BUT though this method may be a very good one, and may have contributed greatly to the encreaſe of trade, I have always conſidered it as ſomewhat bordering upon craft, and have therefore rejected it, to purſue a contrary practice. Never was mankind ſo good as at preſent, I ſay again and again: for, however unwiſe or unrighteous the people of theſe nations may have been two years ago, it is hardly to be conceived how greatly they are improved in their underſtandings, and amended in their morals by the extenſive circulation of theſe my lucubrations.

MANY perſons are of opinion (I ſuppoſe from the effects which they find to have been produced in themſelves) that every individual of my readers has been in ſome reſpect or other the better for me: but this perhaps may be carrying the matter a little too far; and indeed I have a private reaſon for thinking that there may be here and there one, who, though a conſtant reader of theſe excellent eſſays, has received no benefit from them at all. There are people in the world, who, becauſe they pride themſelves upon contradicting an eſtabliſhed opinion, have ſuggeſted in a whiſper, that this is not abſolutely and to all intents and purpoſes the very beſt paper that has hitherto been publiſhed in any age or country. And to confeſs a truth, which will, no doubt, be as ſurpriſing to my readers as it was to me, I have actually received a letter, written in ſober ſadneſs, and without the leaſt intention to be witty, inſinuating that I am growing dull, and adviſing me to lay down my paper while I can do it with honour. But as I have hitherto found my wit to be inexhauſtible, and as I have now, as much as ever, the good of my country at heart, I am willing to continue theſe my labours while

while there are the leaſt gleanings of folly remaining, and till I can have the glory of effecting a thorough reformation.

To forward this great and laudable deſign, I muſt beg of my correſpondents to be very diligent in their enquiries after what is doing in town, and that they will neglect no opportunity of tranſmitting me all the intelligence they can get. I ſhould be glad to know, among other matters of conſequence, if there is yet any ſuch thing as play going on at WHITE's. I ſhould like alſo to hear that the propoſal for eſtabliſhing lectures in divinity and moral philoſophy next winter in the great room at St. James's coffee-houſe, has met with the approbation of the whole club. The repeated aſſurances which I am dayly receiving that fornication and adultery are entirely at a ſtand in this great metropolis, are highly agreeable to me; as alſo that the great encreaſe of bloom, which has of late been ſo very obſervable on the cheeks of ladies of faſhion, is wholly owing to their abhorrence of cards and late hours. I hear with great ſelf-congratulation and delight from the city, that they are hourly encreaſing in frugality and induſtry, and that neither hazzard, nor any unlawful game at cards has been ſo much as thought of at their clubs for this twelve month paſt. But above all, I am charmed with the accounts which I have from time to time received of the laſt general election. That inflexible abhorrence of bribery and corruption, which ſo viſibly and univerſally manifeſted itſelf among all ranks and orders of men, conſtituents as well as candidates, muſt be an inconteſtible proof of the conſummate virtue of the preſent times.

FROM all theſe happy conſiderations, I am perfectly of opinion with the late Mr. Whiſton, that the Millenium

nium, or the kingdom of the juſt upon earth, is very near at hand. When that long-expected time arrives, I ſhall conſider the plan of this paper as compleat, and conclude it the Thurſday following, with a benediction to my readers.

It has been owing to this general reformation (which I flatter myſelf has been principally brought about by theſe weekly eſſays) that I have thought fit to ſuppreſs certain letters, lately come to hand, which are filled with moſt unreaſonable complaints againſt the iniquity of the times. One of theſe letters laments very emphatically the great encreaſe of popery among us, and begs that I would poſtpone every amuſing ſpeculation, to attack with gravity and argument the doctrine of tranſubſtantiation. The ſame letter recommends, in a poſtſcript, ſome neceſſary alterations to be made in the book of common prayer, and deſires that my next paper may be an addreſs to the biſhops upon that occaſion. Another of theſe letters inveighs bitterly againſt the univerſality of ſkittle-grounds in the gardens of people of faſhion, and aſſures me that it is in vain to hope for a reformation, while gentlemen and ladies, nay, even the clergy themſelves, are miſpending their time in the unchriſtian-like diverſions of porters and draymen. The letter ſigned Decorus, complaining of Brunetta's nakedneſs at church, had long ago received a place in theſe papers, if I could have been convinced that it had leſs of invention in it than of reality: for I am aſſured by a particular friend, who is a conſtant frequenter of all public places, that ſince my repeated animadverſions on that ſubject, there is not a pair of naked ſhoulders to be ſeen either for love or money. He proceeds farther to aſſure me, that thoſe excellent animadverſions have given the ladies ſuch an unconquerable

conquerable averſion to all kinds of nakedneſs, that a party of them, going this ſummer from Richmond to Vauxhall by water, choſe rather to ſee a handſome young fellow go to the bottom, as he was attempting to ſwim acroſs the Thames, than to take him into their boat: and when the watermen begged for God's ſake that they might ſave the young man's life, the eldeſt of the ladies proteſted with great vehemence, that ſhe had rather the whole odious ſex ſhould periſh, than have her modeſty affronted with the ſight of a naked man.

But though every reformation of this kind is a ſenſible pleaſure to me, I am very far from attributing the whole merit of it to myſelf: on the contrary, it is with the utmoſt pride and ſatisfaction that I acknowledge the many and great helps which I have received from correſpondents, whoſe names, whenever they come to be mentioned in this undertaking, will reflect an honour upon my own. It is to theſe gentlemen, more than to myſelf, that I am to aſcribe the reformation abovementioned: and becauſe, as I ſaid before, in ſpite of our endeavours to make mankind perfect, there is ſtill perhaps a little ſprinkling of folly remaining amongſt us; and as the Millenium may poſſibly be at a much greater diſtance than Mr. Whiſton and I have ſo ſanguinely imagined it to be; and moreover conſidering the comparative weakneſs of my own abilities; I hereby requeſt and entreat of my correſpondents, that they will continue to favour me with their aſſiſtance in this work, which will moſt certainly be brought to a concluſion on the very firſt Thurſday after the ſaid Millenium ſhall commence.

I cannot ſhew myſelf more in earneſt upon this occaſion, than by cloſing my paper with the following humble addreſs to one of it's ableſt ſupporters.

Adam